

## **University of South Carolina Salkehatchie**

### **Act 629 – Summary Reports on Institutional Effectiveness**

Fiscal Year 2007-2008

#### **Assessment of Academic Advisement**

Qualitative assessment was conducted by biannual meetings of the campus administration with elected members of the student government association. The main topic pertaining to advisement that was brought up by the students was the matching of advisees with advisors by discipline. This topic was also brought up in the quantitative assessment and is discussed below.

Quantitative assessment was conducted by analysis of data collected through a survey of advisees. A sample of 3% of the student body was used (larger samples being planned for future years). Of the students sampled, 68% were female and 56% were freshmen. The proportions of females and of freshmen are representative of the full student body (Salkehatchie being a two-year campus).

Students were asked to fill out the survey anonymously after they were advised for the fall 2008 semester. The survey instrument is attached as Appendix 1.

#### *Current Advisor*

All respondents either “agreed” or “strongly agreed” with the statements that

- it was easy to schedule the advisement appointment
- the advisor was friendly, and
- the advisor was knowledgeable.

All respondents also reported to be satisfied with the advisement experience overall.

Thus, it can be inferred that Salkehatchie students are happy with the advisement experience at the time they are advised.

#### *Previous Advisor*

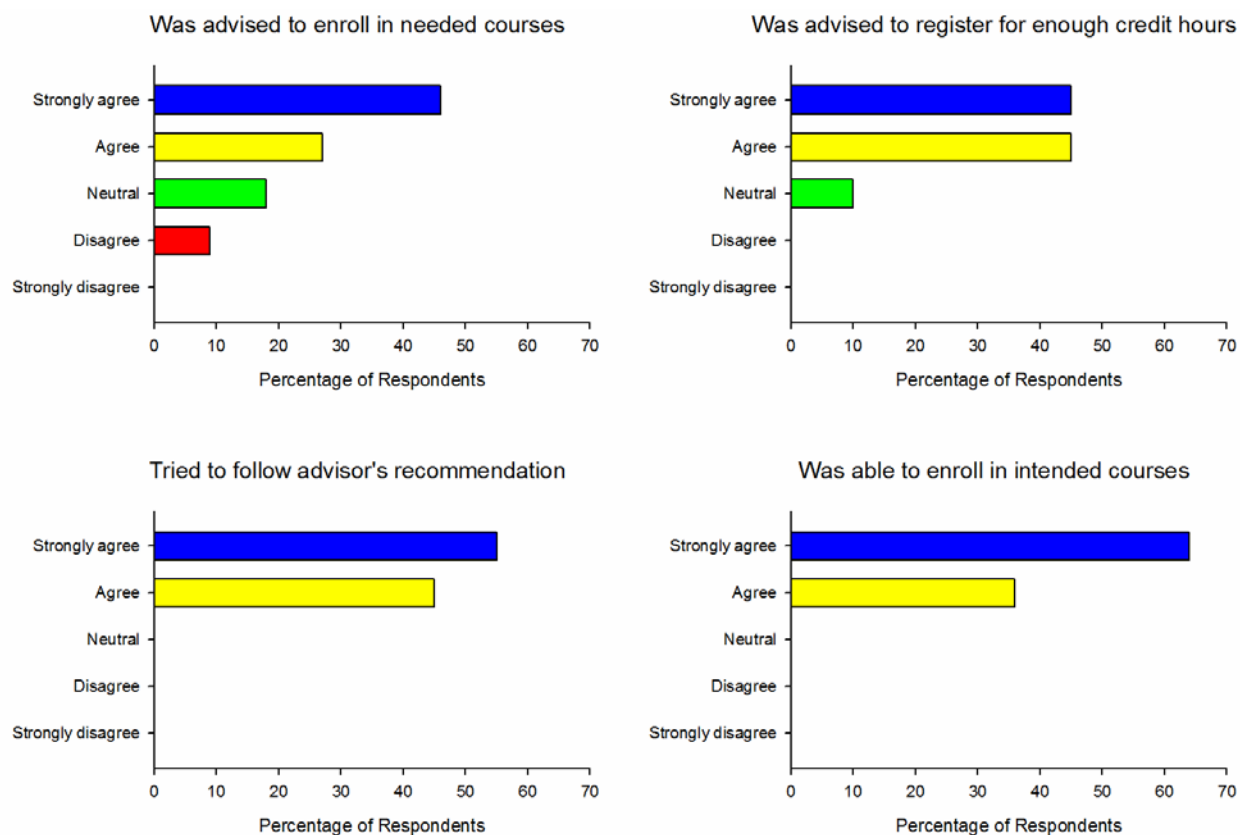
Continuing students were asked questions about their previous advisement experience. Fewer than half of the respondents (45%) reported being advised now by the same advisor who had advised them in the previous semester. This lack of continuity is not desirable because it may prevent advisors from monitoring a student’s progress over several semesters and ensuring that the courses taken each semester are consistent with the student’s long-term educational goals. In the past, Salkehatchie used an advisement system that relied on a generic pool of advisors. Students visiting or calling the office of student services on the Allendale campus or the main office on the Walterboro campus were scheduled for appointments with any advisor in the pool based on the advisor’s availability or the student’s preference – not based on an analysis of the academic goals of each particular student. Beginning this fall, students are being assigned to specific advisors. If the student has a declared major, he/she is matched with a faculty member in that major. If the student is undecided, he/she is assigned to a faculty advisor taken from a list of

available advisors, but this advisor will be notified of the assigned advisees so that he/she can follow up on each student.

A summary of the answers to the last four questions in the survey is provided in the figure below. Although the majority of the respondents felt that they had been adequately advised in the previous semester (top left graph), a quarter of them were unsure or disagreed. Thus, at least one in four students did not feel that his/her advisor took his/her long-term educational goals into consideration. One in 10 students was unsure whether he/she had been advised to take enough credit hours to graduate on time (top right graph).

All respondents reported to have at least attempted to follow the advisor's recommendations (bottom left graph), which indicates good compliance with the advice received during the advisement session. All respondents also reported being able to enroll in the desired classes (bottom right graph), which indicates good coordination between advisement and class scheduling efforts.

Overall, the survey results indicate that students are content with the advisement services offered at USC Salkehatchie. One area that requires improvement is the monitoring of students' long-term educational goals, and restructuring of the scheduling of student advisement has been conducted this semester to provide the needed improvement in the service.



## Appendix 1: Survey Instrument

---

### University of South Carolina Salkehatchie Student Survey of Academic Advisement

Advisor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I am     ☐ male  
         ☐ female

This is my         ☐ first  
                     ☐ second                     semester at Salkehatchie  
                     ☐ third or more

#### ***About today's appointment:***

1) It was easy to schedule my advisement appointment.

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

2) The advisor was friendly.

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

3) The advisor was knowledgeable or knew whom to refer me to.

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

4) I am satisfied with my advisement appointment.

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

#### ***About last semester's appointment (if applicable):***

5) I saw the same advisor as the one I saw today.

☐ Disagree    ☐ Can't remember    ☐ Agree

6) I was advised to enroll in the courses in which I really needed to enroll (in line with my long-term educational goals).

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

7) I was advised to register for as many credit hours as I needed to register for (in line with my long-term goals).

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

8) When registering for classes, I tried to follow my advisor's recommendations.

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

9) I was able to enroll in the classes in which I tried to enroll.

☐ Strongly disagree    ☐ Disagree    ☐ Neutral    ☐ Agree    ☐ Strongly agree

---